

### Legg - Calve - Perthes' Disease:

- A syndrome in which an avascular necrosis affects the capital epiphysis of the femur, which is resorbed and replaced by new bone.
- Mechanical properties of the femoral head are altered, the head tends to flatten and enlarge.
- The head slowly remodels until skeletal maturity is achieved.

### Vascular anatomy:

- 1-The extracapsular arterial ring (from femoral artery)
- 2-The ascending cervical branches (retinacular arteries)
- 3-The arteries of the ligamentum teres

### Incidence:

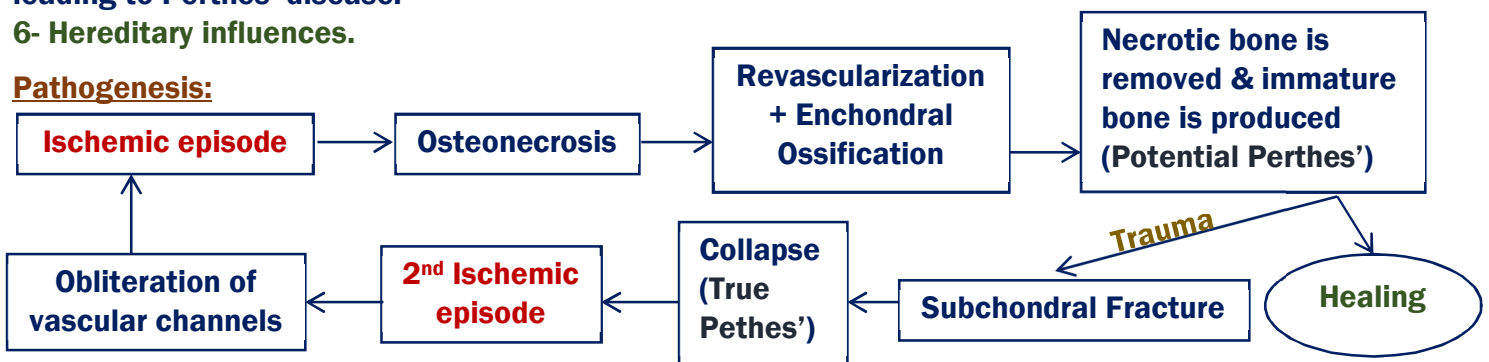
- Age: It usually occurs between the ages of 3 and 12 years.
- Sex: Boys > Girls (5 : 1)
- Side affected: right and left sides is approximately equal. The condition is bilateral in 20%.

**Etiology:** The etiology of Perthes' disease is still unknown.

### Theories:

- 1-Vascular Theory: General decrease of blood flow in the affected hip. With only one source of blood, lateral epiphyseal vessels.
- 2-Abnormal venous drainage of the femoral head and neck.
- 3-Synovitis: lead to increase intracapsular pressure.
- 4-Trauma: Lateral epiphyseal artery become susceptible to disruption, if there was trauma to this area.
- 5-Coagulation Defects: Thrombophilia may result in thrombotic venous occlusion of the femoral head leading to Perthes' disease.
- 6- Hereditary influences.

### Pathogenesis:



### Pathology:

- Initial period: 4 – 6 months
- Fragmentation: 12 – 24 months
- Healing: 2 years

### Diagnosis:

#### A) Symptoms:

- 1-Limping
- 2-Pain: -Located in the groin, anterior hip region, or laterally around the greater trochanter.  
-There often is referred pain to the knee.
- 3-There may be a history of trauma several months earlier.
- 3-A family history of LCPD is rare.

## **B) Signs:**

### **1-The range of motion:**

- Early in the disease, only slight loss of motion is noted at maximum abduction and internal rotation.
- Later with severe disease, there is greater loss of motion.

### **2-The Trendelenburg test: Positive in some cases.**

### **3-The child's gait: is a combination of antalgic and a Trendelenburg gait.**

## **Radiological**

### **1-Widening of the joint space    2-Porosis of the metaphysis    3-Flattening of the bony nucleus**

### **4-The ossification center is smaller than normal**

### **5-A convex rounded enlargement develops at superior, lateral margin of the femoral neck**

### **6-Translucent area in the medial metaphyseal zone**

### **7-Enlargement of neck of femur close to epiphyseal plate**

### **8-Thickening of epiphyseal plate    9-Gage's sign: (V shaped defect laterally)**

### **10-A subchondral fracture may be visible in the upper and lateral part of the head**

## **Classification:**

### **A) Catterall Classification:**

<b>Group I</b>	<b>Approximately 25 % of the femoral head is involved</b>
<b>Group II</b>	<b>Nearly 50 % of the femoral head is involved.</b>
<b>Group III</b>	<b>Approximately 75 % is involved</b>
<b>Group IV</b>	<b>The entire femoral head is involved.</b>

### **B) Lateral pillar (Herring) classification**

<b>Group I</b>	<b>No loss of height in the lateral pillar</b>
<b>Group II</b>	<b>Partial collapse (less than 50 %) of the lateral pillar</b>
<b>Group III</b>	<b>More than 50 % collapse of the lateral pillar.</b>

## **Treatment:**

### **A) Observation: Clinical and radiographical evaluation, at 2 to 4 month intervals**

### **B) Non Containment:**

### **1-Prolonged bed rest                      2-Bed rest with traction                      3-Bed rest with immobilization**

### **4-Non-weight bearing without containment**

### **C) Containment:**

-Means keeping the softened part of the femoral head within the acetabulum so the acetabulum can act as a round mold and help keep the femoral head round.

### **1-Non Surgical:**

### **-Splings & Springs            -Pertie cast            -Slater Stirrup crutch            -Toronto brace**

### **-Atlanta Scottish Rite orthosis                      -Tachdjian abduction brace**

### **2-Surgical: (As all above are proved to be impractical)**

### **-Femoral Varus Osteotomy:**

Proximal femoral osteotomy in the intertrochanteric region, redirection of the head, then held in place with plate & screws

### **-Salter Osteotomy:**

Open wedge osteotomy of the ilium that redirects entire acetabulum so that its covers femoral head

### **-Lateral Shelf Acetabuloplasty:**

Use a graft from the iliac bone to create a shelf over the acetabulum so that ↑ joint surface and stabilize the femoral head

### **D) Surgical ttt for deformity:**

### **-Muscle release, abduction cast.    -Combined femoral & innominate osteotomy.    -Chiari osteotomy.**

### **E) Recently, Arthrodiastasis: by External Fixator (Technique developed by Dr. Mohammad himself)**



### Complications:

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1-Lower Limb Length Inequality | 2-Relative Overgrowth of Greater Trochanter and Coxa Breva |
| 3-Hinged Abduction of the Hip  | 4-The Incongruous Hip                                      |

### Slipped Upper Femoral Epiphysis:

**Definition:** This is a disease of adolescence which affects the epiphyseal plate of the proximal femur.

**\*\*The epiphyseal plate is responsible for growth in length of the femur.**

### Pathology:

- During the rapid growth of adolescence, the strength epiphyseal plate may be reduced to such a level that it is unable to resist the normal stresses to which it is subjected.
- As a result the head of the femur and the shaft lose their normal relationship.
- The capital epiphysis is well supported by the acetabulum. But the femur tends to externally rotate and move proximally under it.

**Incidence:** -Age: 11-14 years    -Boys > Girls    -Often bilateral    -Many of those affected are overweight.

### Etiology:

#### **A) Hormonal disturbance theory:**

Hormonal disturbance (Deficiency of sex hormones - excess of growth hormone) → leads to change in histological appearance of growth plate → weakening.

#### **B) Traumatic theory**

### Diagnosis

#### **A) Clinically:**

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1-Pain: which may be felt in the groin or referred to the knee. | 2-There is usually a marked limp.   |
| 3-In severe cases it may not be possible to bear weight.        | 4-There is no systemic disturbance. |

#### **B) Examination:**

- 1-The affected hip is usually seen to be held in external rotation.
- 2-There is invariably restriction of internal rotation and abduction is often also impaired.

#### **C) X-ray:**

- 1-Disturbance in the relationship between the capital epiphysis and the femoral neck and shaft.
- 2-Both hips should be visualized not only to allow them to be compared but also to help detect an early slip on the symptomless side.
- 3-The first signs appear in the lateral projections
  - A line drawn up the center of the femoral neck *no longer passes through the middle of the base of the capital epiphysis.*
  - Later, A line drawn along the lateral aspect of the femoral neck *fails to cut the epiphysis.*
  - In a chronic slip: new bone forms below the neck.

### Classification:

- 1-Acute slips: the history is short (under three weeks).
- 2-Chronic slips: the history is of many weeks' duration.
- 3-Acute on chronic slips: a history of intermittent limp and discomfort in the hip for several weeks with recent, sudden deterioration.

### Treatment:

- High risks of **avascular necrosis** of the head of the femur (by disturbing its blood supply).
- For this reason **forcible manipulation** of the hip in an attempt to obtain a reduction **must be avoided.**
- Similarly, operative reduction must be performed **with great care** to avoid stretching or division of the blood vessels.



-If the slip is less than 30% → the displacement may be accepted and the epiphysis fixed internally with either AO screws or Knowles pins. (Fixation in situ)

-If the slip is greater than 30%, and recent (i.e. an acute slip or an acute on chronic slip):

- A gentle manipulative closed reduction may be tried.

If this is successful in reducing the deformity to less than 30% → fixation in situ.

If closed reduction is unsuccessful, then operative reduction and internal fixation may be attempted.

- Bearing in mind the risks of avascular necrosis.

**Complications:** 1- AVN

2- Osteoarthritis

